



LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. NAME

- (a) The name of the competition shall be named in accordance to the grade of competition and is at the sole discretion of the League.
- (b) Where a competition is sponsored, the League will have the sole and absolute discretion to incorporate the name of the sponsor in the naming of the competition.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) All member clubs of the League are eligible to enter into one or more of the competitions.
- (b) Clubs competing in those divisions which are defined as requiring the fielding of a reserves team shall field a reserves team in that competition.
- (c) Except as provided at 2(b) above, no club shall have more than one team in the same division of a League.
- (d) The League reserves the right to limit the number of teams which a club may enter into the competition.

3. DIVISIONS

- (a) The League championship and (where applicable) the League reserves championship shall be divided into divisions according to the number of participating clubs in the League.
- (b) Where possible ten teams will be allocated to each division. Where ten teams are unable to be allocated, it will be the lowest divisions that will be allocated with more or less than ten teams. The allocation of teams and/or divisions is at the sole and absolute discretion of the League.

4. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- (a) The two top teams of a lower divisions shall be promoted to the next higher division each year.
- (b) The two bottom teams of the higher division shall be relegated to the next lower division each year.
- (c) When vacancies occur in higher divisions through the resignation or disbandment of teams, or any other cause, the vacancies shall be filled by the teams next in line for promotion from the next lower division.

- (d) When the interest of the League is best served, the Board shall have the power to adjust the numerical composition of teams in the two lowest divisions.

4.1 Exclusions

- (a) Consistent failure by any club to support League activities or to adhere to acceptable disciplinary standards or to provide facilities acceptable to the League may result in its being denied promotion or in its being demoted to a lower division at the absolute discretion of the League.
- (b) Promotion and relegation shall not occur in respect of Reserves or Thirds teams, which shall be tied to the position held by the respective club's Senior team.

5. **CASUAL VACANCIES**

Where a vacancy occurs in any division during the course of the playing season (and whether or not that vacancy occurs in the first or the second half of the playing season) then all results and all goals registered for or against the withdrawing team shall be erased from the record so that, if effect, the end result were as though that team had not existed at any stage of the season.

5.1 Resignation of Membership

- (a) A member may resign from the League at any time by providing confirmation in accordance under Clause 5.16 of the SAASL Constitution.
- (b) The member shall cease to be a member of the League upon the Board accepting the resignation.
- (c) The resignation of a club shall not affect any suspension of the club in operation at the time of the resignation or the power of the League to suspend the club, its officials, players and members.

5.2 Termination of Membership for Breach

- (a) A Clubs membership may be terminated in accordance with the requirements under clause 5.17 of the SAASL Constitution.
- (b) Notwithstanding the resignation or termination of a member, the member shall continue to be liable to the League for any membership fees or other money due and unpaid at the time of its resignation or expulsion.

5.3 Amalgamation of Clubs

- (a) Notice of intention to amalgamate shall be lodged with the League by the parties concerned.
- (b) The amalgamation shall be completed and approved by the Board on or before 31st December of that year or on or before such other date as may be determined by the Board.
- (c) A bond of the prescribed amount must be lodged with the League by the newly constituted clubs within 7 days of the approval of the amalgamation by the Board.

- (d) The bond may be refunded after 12 months if the League is satisfied that the amalgamated club is established and has fulfilled all its necessary commitments.
- (e) The amalgamated club shall be responsible for all claims existing against the former clubs at the time of the amalgamation and the League may use the bond to meet any of these claims if it is deemed necessary.

6. CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

- (a) The League championship and (where applicable) the League Reserve or Thirds championship in each division or section of a division shall (except as provided at 6(i), below) be played on a home and away basis so that each team shall play each of the other teams in its division or section of a division twice during the season, thus
 - (i) once at its home ground (home match) except that where a club cannot provide covered changing facilities, toilet facilities and access to running water for the visiting team and for match officials the League may direct that it play its matches at some other ground than its registered home ground and;
 - (ii) once at its opponent's ground (away match) subject to the same exception as stated at 6(a)(i), above.
- (b) For every WIN, a team shall be awarded three (3) championship points.
- (c) For every DRAW, a team shall be awarded one (1) championship point.
- (d) For every LOSS, a team shall not be awarded any points.
- (e) The team which achieves the highest number of championship points at the end of the competition shall be known as the League Champion or League Reserves Champion of that division.
- (f) When two or more teams have achieved the same number of points at the end of the competition, goal difference will determine the highest finishing team.
- (g) When goal difference fails to separate two or more teams, the team that scored the greater number of goals will determine the highest finishing team.
- (h) When goal difference and goals scored fail to separate two or more teams and the order of precedence determines promotion or relegation or eligibility to compete in other competitions, a play-off shall be scheduled at a time and place and under conditions determined by the League. In all other cases the order of preference shall be determined by the alphabetical order of the names of the teams concerned.
- (i) Where a division (as provided elsewhere in these rules) consists of more or less than ten teams, then the number of home and away games to be played by any team shall be at the absolute discretion of the League.

7. GOAL DIFFERENCE

Goal difference is determined by subtracting the number of goals scored **against** a team from the number of goals scored **for** that team. The result may be positive (goals **for** exceed goals **against**), neutral, or negative.

8. MATCH SHEETS

- (a) Prior to the start of a match, the Club Manger or Coach of a team shall, at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time of kick-off, submit their Match Sheet on the Dribl App, which will include up to, but not more than, six substitutes (consisting of 5 field players and 1 RGK) participating in that match.
- (b) The first eleven players listed must (except through circumstances reasonably beyond the control of the team concerned) be the eleven players that are to commence the game.
- (c) The **shirt number worn by each player and substitutes**, shall be listed on the Dribl App.
- (d) No player shall take part in the match if they are not listed on the Match Sheet.
- (e) Once the Match Sheet has been submitted by the opposition team, both teams are able to view each other's Match Sheet and their Identification Cards and will have to confirm the opposition team on Dribl App.
- (f) Any club that fails to submit their Match Sheet on time will be reported to the League. The League will determine the penalty and sanction to be imposed, including a fine as set by the League.
- (g) A match must not commence until a properly completed Match sheet is submitted on Dribl App,
 - i. Where a Club is the cause a of a late start to the match due to 8(g), the Club will be sanctioned in accordance with the automatic fines published by the League.
 - ii. Club being the cause of the match not proceeding due to 8(g), will be the cause for the match to be abandoned, will be subject to the Rule 28 herein.
- (h) The club shall enter onto the Dribl App the full names and ID numbers of the club officials and the nominated Club Marshal/Ground Stewards for the fixture as prescribed by the SAASL Club Marshall / Club Official policy and as determined by the League.
- (i) The registered club referee officiating in a reserve, C team or Over 35's fixture shall comply with the club referee policy and ensure the relevant information is supplied to the Home Team Manager or Coach, so the Match sheet on Dribl are duly completed and submitted to the League immediately on the completion of any fixture and as specified.
- (j) "Played" shall mean that the participants name has been entered on the Match Sheet.
- (k) Only Participants named on the Match Sheet are permitted in the technical area.

9. PLAYER IDENTITY

- (a) The Board recognises the Dribl Identification Cards that are viewable on the Dribl App (after a Club has submitted their team on the App), as being the photo ID of Players, Coaches, and Club Officials.

- (b) The Clubs have an obligation under these Rules and Regulations to ensure that every player is registered with the League prior to commencing any fixture within a competition of the SAASL.
- (c) The Clubs are required to verify that every Player's identity completely matches their registration information prior to accepting the registration or permitting the Player to participate in any SAASL Competition. Any errors, omissions or fraudulent registrations must be reported to the League immediately.

The Club will be held fully responsible for any breach of the Player Registration rules and will be sanctioned under the Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

- (d) The League may at any time request that a Club or Player provide additional verification of Identity. This must be in the form of a recognised photo ID being a current Drivers Licence or passport. The League may suspend a Players registration until their identity is verified.

10. CHECKING IDENTITY OF PLAYERS

Where a club suspects that an opposition player taking the field of play or one of the substitutes is not the player listed on the opposition Match Sheet,

- (a) A Club official must report to the Referee any Suspected Ineligible Player Violation at the first convenient opportunity (either before the game starts, at half time, or immediately after the conclusion of the match).
- (b) Once the Referee has received a report or allegations of a Suspected Ineligible Player Violation, the Referee will mark the reported Club's Match Sheet clearly stating the alleged Player being reported.
- (c) The reporting Club is required to complete the Suspected Ineligible Player Violation form and submit to the League, accompanied by any evidence or statements, by no later than 12pm on the first business day following the fixture.

The League may only investigate an alleged breach of the player eligibility rules once the duly completed Suspected Ineligible Player Violation form has been received by the League as stated within these rules.

- (d) Where the fielding of an ineligible player is proven or apparently proven, the club if so requested to do so, shall identify the player to the satisfaction of the League. Should the club fail to identify the player as requested, it may be suspended from all further competition until it does so, nor in the case of continuing default may it enter any subsequent competition or renew its membership.
- (e) A club making allegations under this rule without proper and sufficient reason, frivolously, maliciously or dishonestly shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined on the Suspected Ineligible Player Violation form which shall for the purposes of this rule be taken as though it formed part of these rules.

11. PLAYERS

All players taking part in the competition shall be properly registered with the League and undertake to abide by the player / team captain codes of conduct.

- (a) All new players playing in the SAASL competitions, must register on-line on Play Football through the SAASL website as specified by the League,
- (b) In all SAASL competitions, clubs are not permitted to play currently registered players with any other association or any other similar body.
- (c) No player may be registered with more than one (1) member club or one (1) association.
- (d) Any breach of the player registration and eligibility rules will be subject to the sanctions permitted under the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.
- (e) Clubs may by application seek an exemption for junior players to register to participate for the same Club in the League Championship competition . The League, at its sole discretion, may grant such exemption but reserves the right to decline any application under this rule.

11.1 Player Registration

- (a) The renewal of a player registration requires the process to be completed on SAASL website as specified. A clear photo is required as part of the Player Registration process.
- (b) The Club is responsible for verifying their Players Identity at the time of Registration and prior to allowing a player to participate in a match, and the Club will be held accountable for any breach of the Player Registration and Eligibility Rules.
- (c) Players holding a current registration and wishing to transfer to another club, must complete online transfer process. The acceptance of the transfer is at the discretion of the League. This can only be done before the of 30th June.
- (d) A player may be registered for a maximum of three [3] clubs during the season. During this period the player is only eligible to play in matches for 2 clubs.
- (e) The League will advise each club when they need to provide a new photo for their players. Updating players photos will be at the discretion of the League.
- (f) Player transfer requests from all Competitions outside of the SAASL, must be formally lodged with the League office by the Club prior to the Player registering on Play Football.

The League will require the Club to provide the Players full name, current FFA Registration number, Date of Birth and current Club/Competition in order to verify the Players eligibility to participate in the SAASL Competition.

The Players Registration to participate in the SAASL will not be processed until the League has verified all details and their eligibility.

- (g) The League reserves the right to nominate a registration fee as required.

12. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

To commence a game each team is required to have no more than eleven players, one being a goalkeeper, on the field of play. No team shall be allowed to take or to remain on the field if it consists of less than seven players, one being a goalkeeper.

13. SUBSTITUTES

- (a) No more than six substitutes may be listed on the team sheet for any match, irrespective of Grade. The following substitutes will be permitted in all League Championship matches
 - (i) Five (5) players may be replaced by substitutes during the course of a match for Seniors and Reserves.
 - (ii) Teams will only be permitted to make these substitutions as follows;
 - (1) Substitutions will only be permitted at three (3) stoppages during the match.
 - (2) Substitutions during the half time interval can be made with no effect on the three (3) stoppage rule.
 - (iii) Substitutions at all times are subject to the discretion of the Referee.
- (b) Only nominated C team, Over 35's / Veterans Competition are permitted to interchange Players in respect to 13(a) and (b) above.

14. MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS

- (a) When a club is promoting more than one team in the League championship competition, that club (provided it be a full member and not a designated "thirds" or "veterans" club) may be permitted to move its players from one team to another unless those players are under suspension or have been sent off on the same day.
- (b) No club shall use in its Reserve or Thirds team, a player who is a regular first team player. For the purpose of interpreting this sub-rule, a regular Senior (first) team player is one who has played 80 per centum of games in the seniors as at the time of completion of 80 per centum of the prescribed fixtures, (calculated to the nearest whole game).
- (c) Where there is good reason to suspect a breach of this rule the club will be charged with misconduct and if the Competition Disciplinary Committee finds the charge sustained the offending club shall forfeit the match in which a player is used and may, in addition, be subject to additional penalty or penalties.
- (d) This rule 14(b) and 14(c) is only applicable to catch up fixtures or where the senior team is not playing.

15. GROUNDS, GROUND EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES

- (a) Except for very good reason, the League will not permit any championship fixture to be played at a venue where covered changing facilities are not available for use by the competing teams and by the match officials.

If covered changing facilities are inadequate to accommodate both of the competing teams and the match officials, then the visiting team and the match officials shall be given priority in the use of those facilities.

- (b) The home club shall by means of a marked spectator's line, barriers, ropes or other device define an area which will keep all spectators and/or officials and/or players not directly involved in the game at least three metres from any sideline or goal line.

Any barrier or ropes must be of a safe material and not pose any danger in any way to the safety of spectators, players or officials.

The home club shall be responsible for ensuring that no unauthorised person intrudes closer to the sideline or goal line than the distance specified in this rule.

The away team shall ensure that its spectators and/or officials and/or players not directly involved in the game remain within the area specified by the home club and shall be responsible for ensuring that none of those persons intrudes any closer to a sideline or goal line than is specified by this rule.

- (c) The home club shall supply and have on hand, at all home matches, goal nets, sufficient pegs to adequately to fasten the goal nets, 4 corner flags, a match ball and a reserve match balls, a whistle, linespersons flags and ground marking equipment. All items shall conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.
- (d) The home club shall have available and provide the Club Marshal & Ground Stewards vests and the Club Officials ID cards. The home club is to ensure that their registered Club Referee is wearing the Club Referees uniform supplied by the League.
- (e) The away club shall have available and provide the Club Marshal & Ground Stewards vests and the Club Officials ID cards.
- (f) It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that the field of play, ground markings and appurtenances comply with the Laws of the Game and any additional requirements as determined by the SAASL.

16. TEAM COLOURS AND EQUIPMENT

- (a) The team uniform includes the shirts, shorts, socks of a player or goalkeeper.
- (b) Each team must play in its registered team colours as approved by the League. Team colours shall be advised to the League on the Affiliation Form Addendum 1 on the date nominated each year. Once a team's colours have been published by the League, those colours may not be changed during the course of that calendar year without the approval of the League.
- (c) The shirts of players must bear a distinctive number corresponding to the number shown on the team's team sheet. No two players may wear the same number except that where a goalkeeper is injured or changes position and is replaced in goal by an outfield player, it shall not be necessary for that outfield player to wear a shirt number different from that worn by the goalkeeper whom they replace.

- (d) The **home team** will be permitted to wear their nominated first strip. Prior to any fixture, it is the **away team's** responsibility to ensure that their playing uniform (socks, shorts and shirts) does not clash with the **home team**, and where necessary, the **away team** will use their alternative playing uniform.
- (e) If the Match Official at any match deems that the uniforms of the teams or goalkeepers taking part are not sufficiently different, then it is the responsibility of the **home team** to change their uniform, or any part thereof, to the satisfaction of the Match Official.
- (f) The goalkeeper shall wear colours which distinguish them from outfield players and from match officials.

The goalkeeper may wear padded shorts or track suit pants which are black in colour and shall not be required to wear outfield shorts in his team's colours over those padded shorts or track suit pants.

- (g) The playing equipment of all players shall conform to the Laws of the Game.

17. DISCIPLINE & APPEALS PROCEDURE

- (a) The Competition Disciplinary Committee, Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee shall each consist of members appointed by the League in accordance with its Constitution and the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.
- (b) All disciplinary Offences arising out of a match and whether those actions involve player, officials or a club's supporters shall be dealt with in accordance with the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

18. PLAYERS CAUTIONED OR SENT OFF

- (a) The caution system (described in the SAASL Disciplinary & Appeals Rules) shall apply to all players registered and playing in the various League competitions.
- (b) Any player cautioned by a referee shall be subject to the disciplinary measures set out in the SAASL Disciplinary & Appeals Rules.
- (c) Any player sent off by a referee shall be subject to the disciplinary measures set out in the SAASL Disciplinary & Appeal Rules.
- (d) Accumulation of Yellow Card and/or Red Card Suspension or any other Disciplinary action determined at the end of the current season will carry over to the following season and must be served in the League Championship, unless otherwise directed by the Disciplinary Committee.
 - (i) for serious breaches of the SAASL Disciplinary Rules, the League may at its discretion make determinations regarding participation of the participant in any non-Competitive matches of the following preseason.

19. CLUBS AND CLUB OFFICIALS' CONDUCT

- (a) Each member club is unconditionally responsible for the behaviour of its officials, players and supporters. Disciplinary action will be taken against clubs, club officials and players whose actions (or the actions of the club's officials, players or supporters) are in the opinion of the League in breach of the Constitution of the League, its rules of competition or the Laws of Association Football, the club marshal / club official, the appropriate codes of conduct or are actions that bring the game into disrepute.
- (b) All clubs and participants must abide by and promote the following codes of conduct implemented under the fair play – fair conduct program.
 - (i) player & team captain code of conduct
 - (ii) coach & team official code of conduct
 - (iii) club marshal & club official code of conduct
- (c) The home club shall be responsible for the safety of referees and other officials, for the maintenance of good order and for ensuring the safety of all those present at its ground or at the ground on which its fixture is being staged.
- (d) The away club shall be responsible for co-operating with the home club in every way for the safety of referees and of other officials, for the maintenance of good order and for ensuring the safety of all those present at the match in which it is involved.
- (e) Coaching whilst the match is in progress will only be permitted from within the Technical Area only.
- (f) Where the conduct of spectators, players, coaches or club officials is found to have seriously breached the League rules, the relevant codes of conduct, the principles of fair play / fair conduct, or having brought the game into disrepute, the League will determine the disciplinary action to be taken against the clubs involved.
- (g) At the sole discretion and determination of the disciplinary committee, one (or more) of the following sanctions may be imposed:
 - (1) deduction of championship points
(Deducted points will carry over to the following season)
 - (2) suspension from a certain number of fixtures
 - (3) suspension for remainder of season
 - (4) fines and/or bonds of good behaviour

Registration of Team Officials

- (h) Each club will be supplied with up to five club officials numbered ID cards (or more if the club chooses to register more than 5 officials). Clubs are free to allocate their officials ID cards to appropriate club members on match days, and all such persons wearing an official club ID shall be deemed to be appointed club officials for that club on that day.
- (i) Club Officials are required to be registered on PlayFootball at the commencement of each Season and prior to undertaking any associated role as Club Marshall or Ground Steward.
- (j) Clubs are unconditionally responsible for the behaviour of club officials, and must, upon demand by the League, provide the identity of any person who was wearing a club official's ID at any time.

- (k) The minimum requirements are:
 - (i) Senior fixtures - a minimum of 3 Club Officials/Ground Stewards, one of which is to be the nominated Club Marshall and shall fully comply with the SAASL Club Marshall / Club Official policy and the appropriate code of conduct.
 - (ii) Reserve fixtures – one Club Marshall is required and shall fully comply with the SAASL Club Marshall / Club Official policy and the appropriate code of conduct.
 - (iii) The League may at any time impose additional Club Marshall/Club Official/Ground Steward conditions on any club or division.
- (l) Without in any way limiting the generality of paragraph (h) above, the following specific instances are specified:
 - (i) No person may have any dealings with the appointed match officials unless they are wearing a club official's ID. This applies to all dealings with match officials, submitting match sheets and entering the referee's room.
 - (ii) No person may sit on the bench during matches or locate themselves inside the spectator restraining barrier (fence, rope, line, etc) unless they are either a nominated reserve player whose name and player ID is on the Match Sheet or unless they are listed on the Match Sheet or wearing a club official's ID.
 - (iii) No registered club official shall permit their club officials ID card to be worn or displayed by any other person during the course of the day unless they have been specifically authorised to do so by the club.
- (m) Clubs are responsible for ensuring that no club official, supporter, registered player or any other person is in breach of the provisions of paragraph (k) above.
- (n) Any person who was wearing a registered club officials ID shall make themselves available to attend a Disciplinary Committee hearing if called upon to appear. The club shall be responsible for the failure of such persons to appear as directed and shall be subject to an automatic fine for each such failure.
- (o) Failing to abide by any of these provisions, the club marshall / club official policy and/or the codes of conduct, the club shall be in breach of the League Championship Rules and upon receipt of a written report from the match referee, a club referee or League official, shall be subject to disciplinary procedures.
- (p) Breaches will result in sanctions against the club including, but not limited to, fines, suspension, loss of championship points, as determined by the disciplinary committee and the Board as prescribed in these League Championship Rules or the Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

20. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- (a) Protests shall be made in writing, must clearly state the grounds on which the protest is based and shall specify the relevant rule to which the protest refers. Protests must be lodged in accordance with the SAASL Disciplinary & Appeals Rules.

- (b) The rights of appeal, the process and the procedures for Clubs, club officials and/or players, is clearly stated in the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.
- (c) Appeals lodged in accordance with the SAASL Disciplinary & Appeals Rules shall be referred to the Appeals Committee of the League.

21. REFEREES AND REFEREES ASSISTANTS

- (a) Referees and Referees Assistants shall, subject to availability and to the League's policy as defined from time to time, be appointed to each fixture only by the League or on behalf of the League.
- (b) The **home club** is responsible for the payment of official Referees and of official Referees Assistants.
- (c) Fees for matches conducted by official Referees and official Referees Assistants continues to remain the responsibility of the Clubs.
 - (i) The official Referees/Assistants will continue to be appointed in accordance with the Appointment requirements and processes,
 - (ii) The League, on behalf of the Clubs/Teams, will process the payments to the appointed official Referee/Assistants,
 - (iii) The Clubs will be notified weekly and will be required to reimburse the League the cost of their official Referee/Assistant fees within fourteen (14) days of notification,
 - (iv) Clubs failing to reimburse the League as required, may find their Club fixtures suspended.
- (d) Fees for Cup games are shared equally between the home and away Clubs as scheduled, (fee based on the team of the higher division).

22. CLUB REFEREES AND REFEREES ASSISTANTS

- (a) If by the scheduled time of kick off, the official referee is not present, neither is there an official assistant referee present to take the referee's place then the following shall occur;
 - (i) Senior (A team) fixtures – if there is no official or appointed referee then the game shall not be played. The League will determine the outcome in accordance with the League Championship rules.
 - In exceptional circumstances, the League may appoint a Club Referee to officiate the senior fixture and the fixture must proceed.
 - (ii) Reserve (B team) fixtures – if there is no official referee, then the fixture must be played and officiated by a registered club referee as prescribed in the club referee policy and League championship rules.
 - (iii) Thirds (C Team) and over 35's / Veterans fixtures – Clubs to provide Registered Club Referee if no official referee is appointed.

- (b) Should an appointed Referee be unable to continue refereeing a Senior team fixture, the senior appointed Assistant Referee shall take over the fixture to completion. Should there be no official appointed Assistant Referee available, then the fixture will be abandoned and the League will determine outcome in accordance with the League championship rules.
- (c) If by the scheduled time of kick off, the official Assistant Referees are not present, each team shall provide a club linesman. In the event that only one official Assistant Referee is present, the home team's club referee shall assist the official referee.
- (d) If at any time the official Assistant Referee arrives late, they shall take over from the time they arrive and the home club shall report the late arrival to the League.

23. LAWS OF THE GAME

All matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) or (FIFA).

24. DURATION OF THE MATCH

- (a) The duration of a match shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- (b) Thirds and over 35's / Veterans championship matches, where confirmed by the League prior to the commencement of the season, may be two equal halves of 40 minutes each with an interval between the halves not exceeding **10 minutes**, except by consent of the Referee.

25. OFFICIAL STARTING TIME

The kick off times of all matches shall be as specified by the League.

26. LATE START

- (a) A late start is deemed to have occurred if the match commences 10 minutes or more after the specified kick off time.
- (b) At the discretion of the Referee, matches starting more than 10 minutes late, may be reduced in duration by 5 minutes in each half and games starting more than 20 minutes late may be reduced in duration by 10 minutes in each half, provided always that no match shall consist of less than 70 minutes duration.
- (c) Any club which is found to be the cause of a late start shall be fined in accordance with the Schedule of Automatic Fines as published from time to time.

27. WALKOVER

- (a) If a match does not start within 30 minutes of the specified kick off time due to a team failing, or in the opinion of the Referee, fails to be ready to commence play in that game, upon receipt of the Referee's report, the game shall be considered a walkover to the team present at that time provided that:
 - (i) the team present must be changed and ready to take the field, and;

- (ii) have submitted their Match Sheet on Dribl App for the Referee to confirm as required by these rules.
 - (iii) Should the above conditions not be met then the match shall be reported as abandoned and not as a walkover and neither side shall be entitled to championship points.
- (b) The team which is present and ready to play a League match which is declared a walkover shall be entitled to three (3) championship points with no goals for or against (or if in a Cup game, a Win with no goals for or against).

Any points allocated for the match shall be awarded to the Club's opponent which shall be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0).

If at the time of the abandonment or walk off, and where the opposing team is winning the game by a greater margin than three (3) goals, the score line at the time of the abandonment or walk off, will stand.

Where a forfeit is applied, the statistics of the club that did not forfeit or abandon the game, such as the goal scorers and best and fairest votes will be retained. Red and yellow cards will be applied for both teams.

- (c) Any club which is found to be the cause of a walkover of a fixture shall be fined in accordance with the Schedule of Automatic Fines as published.
- (d) Where a match is declared a walkover, the match officials shall be entitled to their full scheduled fees, paid for by the offending club.

28. ABANDONED AND POSTPONED FIXTURES

- (a) If, in the opinion of the Referee, the condition of the ground is such that it constitutes a danger to players or the game cannot be played due to inclement weather or any other cause, the game shall be postponed, and the Referee and official Assistant Referees (if any) shall be paid one half of the scheduled fees.
- (b) If the Referee, once a game has started, abandons the game because of inclement weather and/or ground conditions or for any other cause which would prevent the game from continuing to its completion, both the Referee and the appointed Assistant Referees (if any) shall be entitled to their full scheduled fees.
- (c) Where the abandonment of a game has occurred due to events outside of the control of the teams involved, the result of an abandoned match may stand if at least 80% of the game has been completed.
- (d) The League shall have the sole discretionary power to determine the outcome of any abandoned game.
- (e) Matches abandoned or postponed because of inclement weather, bad ground conditions or other causes not involving violence or disturbance shall be replayed at a time and place specified by the League such as;
 - (i) within 2 weeks of the fixture or
 - (ii) at the next Cup Round should both clubs not be playing

- (f) Matches abandoned due to circumstances other than those specified in sub-clause (28e), shall be subject to investigation and may at the discretion of the League be subject to disciplinary action.
- (g) For matches abandoned under the provisions of sub-clause (28f), the League, will implement the findings of the Competitions Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Committee and may include;
 - (i) that the result of the match at the time of abandonment shall stand, or;
 - (ii) that the match shall be replayed at a time and place specified by the League, or;
 - (iii) that the match shall not be replayed, and no result recorded i.e. no points will be awarded.
 - (iv) that the match be forfeited by one or other of the teams, and that championship points be allocated to the opposite team as would otherwise be awarded for winning of the match.
- (h) Matches abandoned due to the violent behaviour and conduct of spectators, players, or club officials causing serious and significant breaches of the League championship rules, the codes of conduct, and/or the principles of fair play / fair conduct shall be subject to investigation and disciplinary action being imposed on one or both clubs involved by the Disciplinary Committee as permitted under the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.
- (i) Any match which was required to be replayed under the provisions of either subclause (e) or sub-clause (g), above, and which have not been replayed by the end of the League's normal programme, shall not be replayed unless:
 - (i) first or second place of either of the teams concerned or of any other team in that division may be affected by the result, or;
 - (ii) the relegation of either both of the teams concerned or of any other team in that division would be affected by the result, or;
 - (iii) the right of either or both of the teams involved or any team or teams in that division to participate in any competition or in any re-organisation (where that right is determined be the precedence of a team in the League championship ladder) may be affected by the result.
- (j) When, in accordance with sub-clause 28 (g) or 28(i) where a match is not replayed, the championship points will be shared one point each by the teams involved with no goals for or against awarded.
- (k) Where ground conditions are such that it appears unlikely the match could be played, the home club shall advise the League not later than 4.00pm on the day prior to the game being played, with supporting evidence as requested.
 - (i) Where a match fails to take place because of the failure of one team to comply with League Championship Rule 8 and/or Rule 9 and/or Rule 15 and/or Rule 16, that team shall forfeit the match.

29. RESULTS

- (a) At the completion of a match the home clubs shall post the results on Dribl App by no later than 7pm on the day of the match.
- (b) A club that fails or is late to post the result of its match(es), shall be fined in accordance with the *Schedule of Automatic Fines* as published by the League.

30. DRAW OF FIXTURES AND VENUES

- (a) A club applying for deferment of a fixture must do so in writing at least 30 days before the commencement of the season. No other application will be considered except in relation to FFA Cup matches in which a member club may be involved.
- (b) A club applying to change the venue of a fixture must, unless exceptional circumstances intervene, do so at least 15 days prior to the date of that fixture.
- (c) Where a club, in exceptional circumstances, requests to change the venue of a fixture and the time proves too short for all members of the opposing team to be advised, the result of that match (if it be played) may be set aside and a replay be ordered at a time and place determined by the League.
- (d) If a club does not field a team, the League shall refer the matter to the Board. The Board shall determine:
 - (i) whether any compensation shall be paid by the club which did not field a team to the opposing club, and;
 - (ii) if it decides that compensation shall be paid, shall fix the amount of such compensation
- (e) If the Board decides that compensation shall be paid, the club which did not field a team shall pay the amount of compensation fixed by the Board to the opposing club in the manner and at the time directed by the Board

31. PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Player of the Year awards are decided on League Championship senior matches only.

In each case the Referee shall be the sole judge and voter.

The Referee will nominate the three best players in the match -

3 Votes is awarded to the best player of the match

2 Votes is awarded to the second best player of the match

1 Votes is awarded to the third best player of the match

At the end of the season, the player in each senior division who has accumulated the most points shall be the "Player of the Year" of that division.

The player gaining the most points in Sunday Division 1 shall be declared the **Bailetti Medal Winner**.

The player gaining the most points in Saturday Division 1 shall be declared the **Rossi Medal Winner**.

The player gaining the most points in Sunday Division 2 shall be declared the **Cox Medal Winner**.

The player gaining the most points in Saturday Division 2 shall be declared the **Karschimkus Medal Winner**.

The player gaining the most points in Sunday Division 3 shall be declared the **Bailey Medal Winner**.

The player gaining the most points in Saturday Division 3 shall be declared the **Gossland Medal Winner**.

Players on equal points shall each be awarded the respective medals.

32. GUARANTEE

- (a) The League championships of every division and section of a division may be presented a perpetual trophy to mark their success. Such perpetual trophies shall be held by the successful clubs for a period specified by the League and must be returned upon request.
- (b) The President and Secretary of each winning club shall, if so required, give a written undertaking covering the safekeeping of the perpetual trophy and indemnifying the League against its loss, destruction or damage.
- (c) Whether or not perpetual trophies are awarded, each winning club shall be presented a plaque to keep as its own.

33. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (a) The Board may publish or direct the publication in any manner it thinks fit, any information it considers should be published and may suppress all or any information.
- (b) No other person or body shall make any public announcement or publish information relating to the conduct, business or affairs of, or under the control of, the League except with the permission of the Board in writing.
- (c) The provisions of sub-regulations (b) shall not apply to the publication of comments on, and the result of, matches and general information regarding a club and their social activities and must not breach the SAASL Constitution, the Social Media Policy and the Videos & Images Policy.

34. SPONSORSHIP AND LICENSED PRODUCTS

- (a) Clubs and all their teams, players and members shall observe and perform all directions of the Board in relation to the observance or performance of the terms of any agreement or arrangement made by the League with sponsors of the League or members of the League or sponsors of any competition.
- (b) When the League has entered into any agreement or arrangement for the supply of any goods or services (herein called "the approved goods") to the League or members or any of them, all clubs and all their teams, players and members shall:
 - (i) observe and perform all directions of the Board in relation to the observance or performance of the terms of the agreement or arrangement, and;
 - (ii) not, without the prior consent in writing of the Board in each instance, buy, sell or use any other goods or services that are similar to the approved goods.

- (iii) The Board may sanction any breach with:
 - a) a fine not exceeding \$1000 and
 - b) where a contravention continues for more than 7 days, a \$500 fine for every week during which the contravention continues.
- (c) The Board may exempt any goods or services from the operation of this regulation either generally or in respect of the purchase sale or use of such goods or services by any particular club, player or member.
- (d) In circumstances where:
 - (i) A club
 - (1) enters into a sponsorship agreement (“the club agreement”) with a sponsor, and;
 - (2) gives notice to the League that has entered into the club agreement, and;
 - (ii) after the League receives such notice,
 - (1) the League enters into a sponsorship agreement (“the League agreement”) with the same sponsor, and;
 - (2) the sponsor terminates the club agreement within one month of entering into the League agreement;

the League shall pay to the club the amount that the sponsor would have paid to it under the club agreement during the whole of the term for the League agreement.

35. SPONSORS SIGNS

Clubs playing in any competition shall, if so required by the League, display signs advertising the sponsors of the League and the sponsors of the competition at their club grounds in such positions as the League and the club may agree.

36. COPYRIGHT

- (a) The copyright of SAASL Logo including all lists of fixtures or matches, programmes, publications and announcements of the League shall be the sole property of the League as permitted under the SAASL Constitution.
- (b) No club or other person shall reproduce or copy or authorise or purport to authorise any person to reproduce or copy the whole or any part of SAASL Logo any such list of fixtures or matches, programme, publication or announcement except with the written permission of the Board and in accordance with any conditions imposed by the Board as permitted under the SAASL Constitution

37. MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

- (a) On the recommendation of the Board, the League may make a Meritorious Service Award to any person who has rendered sterling service to soccer for a period of not less than ten years.
- (b) Members may nominate persons who have rendered sterling service to soccer for at least ten years for consideration by the Board.
- (c) Nominations shall be in writing and shall contain full details of the services rendered to soccer by the nominee.
- (d) Not more than one award shall be made in any one year.

38. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

These rules may be altered, amended or otherwise changed only by the League and provided that such alterations, amendments or other changes are made and approved by the Board not later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the championship season to which they relate.

39. MATTERS NOT COVERED

Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be at the sole and absolute discretion of the League and all the matters concerning the planning and management of the competition shall be vested in the Board.

40. INTERPRETATION

- (a) The Board shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the Constitution, Rules, Regulations and By-Laws.
- (b) The decision of the Board, subject to the control of the clubs upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the League or its members and not provided for in the Constitution, Rules, Regulations and By-Laws shall be binding on all members, coaches, managers, members of committees of the League and its members and all other persons bound or affected by these rules and regulations and by-laws of the League.
- (c) The interpretation of the Rules and Regulations for Trial games, Pre-Season Cup Competitions or any other competition authorised and played under the jurisdiction of the League will be subject to the League Rules and Regulations and at the sole and absolute discretion of the Board.
- (d) Disciplinary sanctions arising out of Trial Games, Preseason Games and/or Pre-Season Cup Competitions in relation to Yellow Cards and Send off offences as detailed in the Disciplinary and Appeals Rules is subject to the determination by the League.
- (e) All member Clubs shall be bound by and shall observe and enforce the Rules and Regulations and each member Club shall be responsible for the actions of all its officials, players and members and shall enforce these rules and regulations on its officials, players and members.

41. ADDENDUM 1 – Over 35's Rules

ADDENDUM 2 – Suspected Ineligible Player Violation Form

League Championship Rules Control

Date	Clauses Amended	Description of Change	Date
February 2024	All 5.2 8, 8(d), 8(g) 9(c) 10(c) 11(d) 11(c) 11.1(b) 13 14 14 16 17 18, 19, 20 21 22a 23 27, 34 28	Review in light of DC Rules Terminology change refer to Constitution. Match sheets requirements. Player identity – ref DC rules Timeframe report Player Violation Player registration/eligibility Junior player exemption Player eligibility Removed old Substitution rule. Added CDC to (c) Added 'or' to player movement rule. Team colour change previously notified to clubs Disc Appeals procedure – refer CDC Formatting only Referee Assistant Added Club Ref appointment. Updated to IFAB Laws of the Game Formatting Added CDC to rule.	29 th February 2024
February 2023	Revised in Full	Amended for New SAASL Constitution (December 2022)	10 th February 2023